

## Jacob Wismer Elementary School PTO

### Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2012

**President's Report:** Kim Beaton called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves. There were 16 people in attendance.

Kim explained that last year the PTO had budgeted to give funds for supplies to three specials teachers, but should have done so for four. Kim said that later in the meeting she would like to discuss the PTO to give \$400 to Technology for headphones, which Kathleen High has documented a need for.

**Secretary's Report:** Julia Gaynor made the September 2012 meeting notes available for review. GERALYN Kerprich motioned to approve the minutes with no edits; Wendy Gibson seconded. The motion passed.

**Principal's Report:** Principal Joan McFadden said the carnival was fantastic and said thanks to Andrea Crowe, Cherie Tan (Pun), Lynn Hartigan, and the many, many volunteers. Great that the Sheriff was there. There are 777 enrolled at JW. The smallest class size at JW is 26 students in kindergarten; the high is 34 in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

Joan expressed thanks to Nina for organizing Battle of the Books; many parents called and happy.

Joan just scheduled at Nov 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30 p.m. meeting re. Outdoor School.

The District has decided not to send home fliers from outside organizations. Now the flyers are available off school Web site. (Not recommended to go through the email link due to problems with document when open that way.)

The District sent Joan a community volunteer application from a woman in the community who doesn't have children in the District, but wants to volunteer at JW.

Joan said that the District is investigating 1-1.5 hour meeting 1X per week where teachers collaborate to share ideas for students. They are looking at a late start on Wednesdays and then extending the school day for 10 minutes on the other days of the week. The cafeteria would be open for study hall during the meeting time. Joan would supervise the children in the study hall. The School Board and the BEA (union) would decide. JW parents can talk to Tom Quillan of the School Board. There is going to be a meeting about this that parents can attend.

Jillian Starr asked if grant writing is part of the Student Supervisor's job. Joan said that it's not. Joan provided some information about strategies for grant-writing from her experience as a parent. Chitra Tovinkere said that Portland Montessori has a grant writer who gets paid when she gets a grant; the school has gotten significant grants. Jillian asked if there are any levies on the horizon. Joan said, no, per information from the School Board. Jillian asked if there could be more cuts next year. Joan said that it's possible; it depends on the state treasurer. Lynn asked if Biz Town won't happen this year. Joan said that the teachers said that the work isn't worth the lessons learned; the lessons of Biz Town have gotten dated—focus on check writing.

**VP of Fundraising:** Wendy Gibson said that JW PTO received a grant from a private donor for \$1,000. Kim said that the PTO had budgeted for proceeds from selling \$12,000 through Innisbrook; over \$17,000 has been sold. PTO keeps about 43%. So PTO will keep more than expected. GERALYN said that people can order from Innisbrook all year online. One student sold over \$600, another over \$800. Wendy said that October 29<sup>th</sup> U.S.

West Taekwondo of Bethany Village is offering a month of classes up to three times a week up to twice a day, provide belt and uniform for \$45. Will take up to 30 students. He'll only keep \$10 per student; the remainder goes to JW PTO. Piccolo Mondo date will November 29<sup>th</sup>. On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Piccolo Mondo will have a wish list day; child who fills out gets \$5 gift card. People can order over phone. Piccolo Mondo will give 15% of profits, but won't give till March in case of returns. There will be seven Frozone Yogurt events; gives 10% of profits. They will do over summer with emailed flyers.

**VP of Community Events Report:** Lynn said that about 50 parents of the whole school signed up to volunteer for Carnival. It was a hard burden for the volunteers. Wendy Gibson's family is donating some carnival games for next year.

**Member at Large:** Jillian Starr is going to lead the Author visits.

**Volunteer Coordinators:** Geralyn Kerprich said that all classes where the teacher wanted a coordinator have one. Volunteer Orientation and Class Coordinator Orientation went well. Nina said there have been some problems with HelpCounter sending volunteer reminder messages in error, or skipping some. Nina said don't rely on HelpCounter email messages for reminders. Nina said that Battle of the Books is starting at JW. Students starting to check out books. I-Shuann Warr made a nice BOB bulletin board. Nina summarized the program. There may be a little book shortage while the new books are bar-coded through the District. BOB books are duct-taped with zebra duct tape. Dan Silver asked who the judges will be. Nina said parent volunteers and then ask 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to sign up for one to keep score. Options for location and other logistics were discussed. Tina Lee will receive the BOB questions and give them to Jillian Starr, who will organize them (Jillian doesn't have a child in BOB.)

Nina said that Jr Great Books training is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sara O'Donnell said that Nov 6<sup>th</sup> will be the Scholastic Book Fair at JW. 8:15 a.m.-6 p.m. Because Jane Hamilton isn't here, need many more volunteers and the fair will be shorter. Sending home flyers and can order on line. Last year sold \$13,000 in books, which meant about \$5,000 in books for library. Kim noted that this, the PTO donation, and the birthday books are the only funding source for buying books this year.

Dan Silver brought up an idea for a book swap, where the kids bring in books. For each book up to five, get a new books. All of the extra books are donated to the library. This would be done after the book fair. Dan suggested just before winter break and summer break.

**Financial Reporter:** Chitra Tovinkere said that the PTO closed the U.S. Bank account because U.S. Bank normally charges about 45 cents for each check. The bank reimbursed the fees, but the PTO needed to change banks because of that expense. Write-a-Check took in \$4,600 more than what was budgeted. Carnival got \$8,645. \$4,400 in expenses for Carnival so far; vast majority expense requests in. Geralyn motioned to give \$400 to Tech specialist for new headphones. Nina Kelley seconded. The motion passed.

**Community Engagement Committee:** Joan said that a CEC meeting is scheduled for Thursday 10/11 3:15 p.m. The school State Report Card, school improvement plan will be discussed. NW Children's Theater will be at JW (building use). There was \$1,250 donated due to Mr. Jacob Wismer passing away. Joan said that ideas on how to spend the donation are being discussed.

**Art Literacy:** Liz Caswell said that Art Literacy is going great. Almost half of classes done with Gaugain. Great volunteers. On schedule to finish that project by Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Liz said that smocks are needed for the next one.

**PTO Liaison:** Dan Silver reported:

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Fall topics. Safety at school and home. **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:** Biography study. Interactive science—consumable science books. **4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Lewis & Clark. Working with owl pellets coming up.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The week after Thanksgiving there will be a presentation about Outdoor School.

Dan said that several teachers asked about how to turn in receipts. Kim said that there will be information at the next staff meeting regarding how to do. Dan asked if the PTO-supplied class supply funds could be increased from \$100 per teacher. Kim said that it will go up to \$125 per teacher.

Dan said that the Technology Committee, including Dan and Dave Leahy, was wondering how much money is planned to go to Tech. They are thinking of iPads in class, including Andy in PE. There is a big shift to iPads in education. So, money would be needed for iPads and apps. Liz asked that the idea be discussed in sub committee. Geralyn asked Dan if the Mobis are being used. Dan said yes. Geralyn wondered if the Mobis can be better utilized. Joan said that Joan needs to facilitate the use through staff development.

**New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.